

REMARKS

Claims 2-3 were previously cancelled. With this response, claims 1, 4-5, and 10-11 are cancelled. Claims 6-9 are allowed, and claims 6-9 remain pending in the case. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims is requested in light of the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 6-9 are allowed.

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because the word "free" (appearing at line 29, page 3) should be changed to --fixed-- and the word "150may" (appearing at line 31, page 3) should be changed to --150 may--. The applicant submits that the word "free" (appearing at line 29, page 3) is correct, the numerical reference "160" (line 29) associated with the "free magnetic layer" (line 29) should instead be changed to the numerical reference --140--.

The appropriate amendments to the specification were made to overcome the identified objections.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

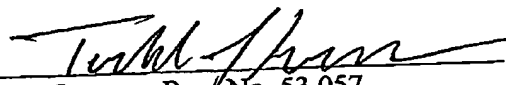
Claims 1, 4-5 and 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Naji, 5,946,227, in view of Parkin, 5,764,567, and Tehrani, et al., 5,920,500.

Claims 1, 4-5, and 10-11 are cancelled.

Conclusion

For the above reasons, reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims is requested. Please telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office via facsimile number (571) 273-8300 on January 19, 2006.


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